

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An actuator unit comprising:
a piezoelectric actuator-(1);
contact pins arranged along the actuator and in conductive connection with the actuator;
and
a hollow body (4)-having the piezoelectric actuator disposed therein, the hollow body being elastic and biasing the actuator, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body (4) is joined tensionally and/or positively to the upper and lower end of the actuator, and the hollow body being provided with holes (41)-which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis.
2. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is gripped in its direction of expansion between an upper and a lower cover plate (5, 6)-which are tensionally and/or positively joined to the hollow body.
3. (currently amended) A hollow body for biasing a piezoelectric actuator, the hollow body being made elastic, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body is provided with holes (41) which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis.
4. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.
5. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the minimum distance between adjacent holes (41)-of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body (4).
6. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the holes (41) are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body (4).

7. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body (4) is made of spring steel and the holes (41) are punched.
8. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body (4) has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.
9. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body (4) has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.
10. (currently amended) The actuator unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~the marginal areas of~~ around the holes (41) are at least partially compressed.
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.
14. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the minimum distance between adjacent holes (41) of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body (4).
15. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the holes (41) are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body (4).
16. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, wherein the hollow body (4) is made of spring steel and the holes (41) are punched.

17. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body (4) has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

18. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hollow body (4) has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

19. (currently amended) The hollow body according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the marginal areas ~~of~~ around the holes (41) are at least partially compressed.